

I claim:

1. A wound dressing for absorbing wound exudate, comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces and at least one receptacle formed therein, the at least one receptacle opening at the distal surface of the absorbent core and extending a distance into the thickness of the absorbent core, said at least one receptacle containing a discrete portion of at least one absorbent material.

2. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core is selected from the group consisting of polymeric foam, woven material and non-woven material.

3. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of hydrocolloids, hydrogels and hydrophilic polymers.

4. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle comprises a plurality of receptacles arranged in a predetermined pattern.

5. The wound dressing according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined pattern comprises the receptacles varying in volume according to the location of each of the receptacles along the distal surface of the absorbent core.

6. The wound dressing according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined pattern is arranged so that the density of the receptacles per unit area progressively increases from the periphery towards a central portion of the absorbent core.

7. The wound dressing according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined pattern comprises the receptacles arranged in equally spaced arrays.

8. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core further comprises a plurality of discrete hydrophilic particulates enmeshed therein.

9. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle has a generally circular cross-section.

10. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle is a channel generally defined transversely along the distal surface of the absorbent core.

11. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle is generally cylindrical in shape.

12. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle extends through the entire thickness of the absorbent core.

13. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle extends a distance short of the entire thickness of the absorbent core.

14. The wound dressing according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined pattern comprises the plurality of receptacles having varying depths relative to their location to a central axis of the absorbent core.

15. A wound dressing for absorbing wound exudate, comprising:

an absorbent foam core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces with a plurality of discrete hydrophilic particulates enmeshed therein.

16. The wound dressing according to claim 15, further comprising a discrete layer of elastomeric gel having a plurality of apertures secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

17. The wound dressing according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of apertures have substantially a uniform shape and are equally spaced from one another.

18. The wound dressing according to claim 15, further comprising a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to at least a portion of the distal surface of the absorbent core.